

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5542
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IS, OVIP (HAUSNER, GIDEON)
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO
HAUSNER

1. CHARGE AND POLITICAL OFFICER MET WITH GIDEON HAUSNER
OF THE INDEPENDENT LIBERAL PARTY MARCH 30 IN HIS OFFICE
IN JERUSALEM. HAUSNER AND HIS ILP CABINET COLLEAGUE MOSHE
KOL ARE "CAPTIVES" IN THE PRESENT CARETAKER GOVERNMENT
(BY STATUTE UNABLE TO RESIGN UNTIL AFTER THE
KNESSET ELECTION), HAVING VAINLY ATTEMPTED TO LEAVE
THE COALITION LAST DECEMBER AROUND THE TIME OF
RABIN'S RESIGNATION.

2. HAUSNER, WHO HEADS THE ILP LIST, FORESEES A DIFFICULT
TIME FOR HIS PARTY IN THE MAY ELECTION. (COMMENT: ALMOST
EVERY OBSERVE IN ISRAEL SHARES THIS VIEW.) HE ACKNOWLEDGED
THAT THE DMC CONSTITUTES STIFF COMPETITION AND, SOMEWHAT
REPROACHFULLY, SAID THAT IT WAS THE ILP THAT REPRESENTED
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"REAL" CHANGE--BOTH ON ISSUES AND IN THE NEW FACES ON
ITS KNESSET LIST. HE SAID THAT DEMOCRACY HAD TRIUMPHED
IN THE ILP INTERNAL ELECTION, EVEN IF THE RESULTS MAY
HAVE SURPRISED THE PARTY'S LEADERSHIP (APPARENTLY A
REFERENCE TO VETERAN ILP MK YEHUDAH SHA'ARI'S LOSS TO
A RELATIVE UNKNOWN IN THE BALLOTING FOR A SAFE POSITION
ON THE KNESSET LIST--SEE TEL AVIV 1474). HAUSNER THOUGHT

THAT THE DMC'S LEADERSHIP COVERED TOO WIDE A SEGMENT OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM FOR IT TO HOLD TOGETHER. THIS WAS DEFINITELY TRUE ON TERRITORIAL ISSUES, BUT WAS THE CASE ON DOMESTIC AFFAIRS AS WELL. FOR EXAMPLE, AMONG DMC LEADERS MEIR ZOREA IS A TRUE SOCIALIST WHILE AMNON RUBENSTEIN IS A CONVINCED LIBERAL.

3. HAUSNER MAINTAINED REPEATEDLY THAT GOVERNMENT SPENDING MUST BE DRASTICALLY REDUCED (IMPLYING THAT THIS WOULD BE A MAJOR ISSUE FOR THE ILP IN THE CAMPAIGN), AND THE LINE MUST BE DRAWN ON WAGE INCREASES. (IN THE RECENT PORT STRIKE, HAUSNER WAS ONE OF TWO ON THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE TO HANDLE THE DISPUTE WHO OPPOSED THE GOVERNMENT'S CONCESSION TO THE DOCKERS.) THE CURRENT RATE OF INFLATION CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE.

4. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE LIKED WILL COME OUT AHEAD IN MAY, FORESEEING THAT THE NEXT GOVERNMENT WILL BE A COALITION OF THE ALIGNMENT, THE DMC, THE ILP AND POSSIBLY THE NRP--THOUGH HE HOPES IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY TO INCLUDE THE LATTER. THE ILP WOULD BE PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO BE IN A GOVERNMENT THAT CONTAINED THE NRP SO AS TO "NEUTRALIZE" IT. THIS WAS THE MAIN REASON THAT THE ILP HAD JOINED THE PRESENT COALITION. HAUSNER'S PARTY HAS TWO CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE NEXT GOVERNMENT: CABINET REORGANIZATION AND CIVIL MARRIAGE.

5. ANSWERING A QUESTION REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIBERAL PARTY BREAK-AWAY FROM THE LIKUD IF THE ALIGNMENT WINS IN MAY, HAUSNER THOUGHT SUCH A SPLIT WOULD ONLY OCCUR OVER A SPECIFIC ISSUE AND NOT ON IDEOLOGICAL GROUNDS. HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD HAPPEN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ELECTION EVEN IF THE LIKUD DID BADLY.

6. HE SAW THE INFLUENCE OF PROFESSOR BRZEZINSKI IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN SECURITY BORDERS AND POLITICAL BORDERS. HAUSNER SAID THAT BRZEZINSKI HAD EXPLAINED TO HIM HIS CONCEPT OF HAVING ISRAELI OR NEUTRAL TROOPS PATROLLING THE JORDAN RIVER AND OTHER AREAS THAT MIGHT LIE BEYOND ISRAEL'S FRONTIERS AFTER A SETTLEMENT. HAUSNER FAVORS WITHDRAWAL ON THE WEST BANK BUT STATED "THE ILP WILL NOT ACCEPT A SEPARATE STATE THERE." THE PLO CANNOT BE A PARTY TO NEGOTIATIONS BUT THERE ARE WEST BANK PALESTINIANS WHO ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT ISRAEL AND LIVE WITH IT IN PEACE. NOTTING TO WHERE THE CHARGE WAS SITTING, HE SAID, "MANY OF THEM HAVE

SPOKEN TO ME RIGHT FROM THAT CHAIR." HE SAID IT HAD BEEN A MISTAKE TO HOLD LOCAL ELECTIONS ON THE WEST BANK. THIS HAD ONLY SERVED TO INCREASE THE PLO'S INFLUENCE (AND PRESUMABLY REDUCE THE INFLUENCE OF THOSE WILLING TO ACCEPT ISRAEL).

7. HAUSNER SAID THAT HE WOULD BE ARRIVING IN THE UNITED STATES ON APRIL 17 IN ORDER TO SPEAK ON THE SUBJECT OF THE HOLOCAUST AT NEW YORK CITY'S EMMANUEL TEMPLE. (HAUSNER WAS THE PROSECUTOR AT THE ADOLPH EICHMANN TRIAL AND IS CHAIRMAN OF THE YAD VASHEM MEMORIAL IN JERUSALEM TO THE HOLOCAUST VICTIMS.) EMPAHSIZING THE NEED NOT TO FORGET THIS TRAGEDY, HE SAID HE WANTED TO PRESENT PRESIDENT CARTER WITH A NEWLY REVISED EDITION OF HIS BOOK ON THE HOLOCAUST AND INDICATED THAT THE ISRAELI EMBASSY WAS ASSISTING HIM IN REQUESTING A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT.

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8. ACTION REQUESTED: THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONTACT THE ISRAELI EMBASSY TO SEE IF THEY ARE INDEED ARRANGING A HAUSNER VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND THE WHITE HOUSE. HAUSNER IS A RESPECTED MODERATE POLITICIAN AND JURIST, AND THE PRESIDENT'S SEEING HIM IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MEANING OF THE HOLOCAUST IN THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WOULD STRIKE A PROFOUNDLY RESPONSIVE CHORD HERE.

DUNNIGAN

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